

Mr. Speaker, renaming this Federal Court House as the Robert J. Dole United States Courthouse is a simple tribute to a great man and reflects our Nation's admiration and appreciation for his service. Kansans especially appreciate Senator Dole's dedication to them. His service will long be remembered.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words about H.R. 994, a bill to designate the border crossing station in Pharr, TX, in honor of Kika de la Garza. As you are aware, I am the sponsor of H.R. 994, a bill to honor my friend and former colleague, Kika de la Garza. He was the first Hispanic-American to become a chair of a standing committee, the Agriculture Committee.

Under his watchful eye, reform legislation for USDA was crafted that made many needed and important changes—without eviscerating those USDA programs that were effective and needed to help America's farmers and protected the public. The bill that ultimately became law made remarkable changes at USDA. Because of Chairman de la Garza's leadership and sage counsel the bill represented the right way to reinvent Government.

Throughout his 32-year career in Congress, Kika never lost sight of the folks back home. He fought tirelessly for his constituents. He also proved to be an able and effective advocate for American farmers. In no small measure because of his leadership, American agriculture remains the envy of the world.

Kika also is an amateur linguist and gourmet cook. On many occasions he conversed with foreign dignitaries in their native tongue. Personally, Kika is my friend. I am proud to sponsor this legislation.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 994 to designate the U.S. border station located in Pharr, TX, as the "Kika de la Garza U.S. Border Station." I believe this is an appropriate way to honor Congressman de la Garza's many years of service to the United States and the State of Texas, during which he provided tremendous leadership in support of agriculture, economic growth of south Texas, improved relations with Mexico, a better quality of life for residents along the border, and many other issues.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve in Congress with Kika de la Garza, even if for only 2 of his 32 years in this body. He is an example to all of us of a true gentleman and public servant who brought honor to this House through the civility, respect, and commitment to doing what is right that he brought to conducting the people's business. He is also a true Texan who worked with his colleagues from both sides of the aisle to further the best interests of our State.

Congressman de la Garza is best remembered for his leadership on behalf of American agriculture. He served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee for a longer interrupted period than anyone else in history and presided over the drafting and successful enactment of three major omnibus farm bills, 1981, 1985, and 1990, that have reformed our Nation's agricultural policies. He also guided efforts to reduce the cost of agricultural programs through several deficit reduction bills that have been approved by Congress. His other legislative accomplishments include legislation to streamline the agricultural lending system, strengthen Federal pesticide laws, and various other measures to assist Amer-

ican agriculture, encourage rural development, and improve human nutrition.

Congressman de la Garza was also one of Congress' leading experts on United States-Mexico relations and a proponent of greater trade with Mexico. In 1966, he became the first Member of Congress from the Texas-Mexico border area to serve on the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, which promotes dialog between legislators from the two countries. He was an early congressional supporter of opening negotiations with Mexico to develop a free trade agreement and helped rally congressional support that led to approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

Throughout his career, Kika de la Garza also fought for Government policies that fostered better living and economic conditions for all Americans but particularly in south Texas. He obtained Federal funds to provide much-needed water and sewer services to Texas' impoverished colonias. He was a strong supporter of civil rights for all Americans, better educational opportunities, and improved access to health care for the elderly, veterans, and low-income individuals. He also supported policies to improve the Nation's infrastructure and maintain a strong, cost-effective national defense.

Our entire Nation benefited from Kika de la Garza's service in Congress, and his legacy includes an agricultural system that continues to lead and feed the world, better relations and expanded trade with Mexico and other nations, and a better quality of life for many Texans and Americans. I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring Kika de la Garza and in urging approval of this legislation to designate the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in support of H.R. 994, legislation designating the Kika de la Garza U.S. Border Station in honor of our former Democratic colleague from my home State of Texas. This legislation is a fitting honor to a great legislator.

Born in 1927, Kika de la Garza is currently husband to Lucille and the father of three children. He attended Edinburg Junior College, received his law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, and practiced law in southern Texas. De la Garza was a U.S. artillery officer in Korea.

Former Representative de la Garza began his career in public service as a six-term Member of the Texas House of Representatives. In 1964, he was elected by the people of the 15th Congressional District of Texas to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. After 32 years of service de la Garza retired from public office in December 1996.

A member of the House Agriculture Committee beginning in 1965, Representatives de la Garza served as chairman of the committee from 1981 to 1994. In that role Representatives de la Garza was a true friend of agriculture. He was a strong supporter of the agriculture industry and cast many deciding votes for the industry over the years. He will be remembered for his faithful commitment to farmers, ranchers, and U.S. agricultural industry. Representative de la Garza's accomplishments during his career included support of farm legislation, an overhaul of the agricultural lending system, and reform in Federal crop insurance and pesticide law.

Representative de la Garza was also a friend to the citizens of the State of Texas. He will be remembered for his steadfast dedication and outstanding leadership in support of better living and economic conditions, and for his ardent support of the educational research and extension activities of Texas universities.

I would like to offer the leadership of both parties my thanks for bringing this measure before the House for consideration. It is a fitting tribute to one of our former leaders. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the designation of the Kika de la Garza U.S. Border Station. Representative de la Garza has duly earned this honor for the dedication he has demonstrated not only to the people of Texas but to the entire agricultural community of our Nation for the last 33 years.

Kika de la Garza started humbly. His first job was as a shoeshine boy on the streets of McAllen. His hard word and dedication earned him a seat in the Texas House of Representatives in 1953, where he served until 1965. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 and served with us for 16 consecutive terms.

In 1982, he became chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and served in this position for 14 years.

During that period he has shown selfless dedication to the people of our Nation who earned their livelihood from the land and who grow food for all of us. He has focused the spotlight on important issues such as drought relief, pesticide use, and land preservation. Due to his efforts, he made the Agriculture Committee one of the least partisan in the House.

Accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues to join with me in support of the designation of the Kika de la Garza U.S. Border House. It is rare to honor someone who is so deserving of this kind of accolade.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 994.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 994.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RONALD H. BROWN FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R.